

THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.

Translated from the Revue des Deux Mondes.

If there is any island in the world on which the whole arsenal of administrative evils has been exhausted, it is certainly the Island of Ceylon.

One of the most enchanting roads in the world is that along the western shores of the sea which connects the capital, Colombo, with the Point de Galle.

Neither Galle nor Colombo possess a character of remarkable originality; well-preserved fortifications, in the interior some churches built in the seventeenth century, large streets shaded by hibiscus trees one hundred years old, the classic houses of one story of the tropical climate, with verandas and pillared porticoes—this is the general aspect of the two cities.

At the very time when the metropolis considerably reduced the import duties on coffee the competition of the other coffee producing countries was paralyzed by the question of emancipation and by the abolition of the slave trade.

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to sovereign, had been transferred during a period of 150 years, was called Sri Wickrama Raja Singha. He was dethroned and imprisoned in the Indian fortress of Vellore, where he lived till 1832.

While submitting the whole island to their rule, the English had good sense enough to declare that religious worship should remain absolutely free. Ceylon has, in fact, been the promised land of Buddhism since the time it was introduced there—165 before Christ.

Another source of wealth seems likewise to have dried up for the present; we mean the pearl fishery which, on the northwest coast of the island, from Negombo to Mazarar, was carried on from time immemorial.

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part in these delicate operations, which with their aid would be almost impossible. They seem to enjoy it greatly.

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